

# Contents

	Preface	ix
Journey 1	An Inflated Idea of Ourselves	1
Journey 2	Strings to Tie a Universe Together	25
Journey 3	Phoenix Rising	44
Journey 4	The Nearest Star	72
Journey 5	A Study in Contrasts	88
Journey 6	Thar She Blows!	107
Journey 7	The Hottest Spots in the Universe	119
Journey 8	Cosmic Dustbins	147
Journey 9	To the Hub!	160
Journey 10	The Enigma Machines	172
Journey 11	She was the universe	184
	Bibliography	191
	Index	195